

[English]

**Afforestation**

4845. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special plantation programme is proposed to be implemented in the hilly areas through a centralised agency owing to the massive deforestation and environmental degradation, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any regional remote sensing and satellite imaginary programme for the protection of the cover is being undertaken;

(c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the names of the N.G.Os actively participating in environmental protection and afforestation programmes and financial assistance provided to them;

(e) whether any regional task force is being proposed to be formed by the Centre for implementation of afforestation schemes in the remote plain and hilly areas of the North East;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The plantation programmes are implemented through the various State Governments. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has the following schemes under which afforestation activities are taken up:

1. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme.

2. Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme.

3. Non-Timber Forest Produce Projects Scheme.

There are no schemes specifically for hilly areas, though projects are sanctioned for these areas under the above mentioned schemes.

(b) and (c) The Forest Survey of India Published a "State of Forest Report" every two years. This is based on, *inter-alia*, remote sensing and satellite imagery data. The 1995 assessment shows the total forest cover of the country as 639,600 sq. km. a decrease of 507 sq. km. as compared to the 1993 assessment.

(d) Approximately 150 Non-Governmental Organisations have been funded in the last 3 years for taking up afforestation works with Rs. 1.50 crores being disbursed to them annually.

(e) to (g) No, Sir. Afforestation schemes in the States of the North East are implemented by the respective State Governments.

**Production of Oilseeds**

4846. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing acute edible oil deficiency due to shortfall in the production of oilseeds and increase their prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to fulfil this deficiency;

(d) the specific steps proposed to be taken to achieve self-sufficiency in the oilseeds production;

(e) whether the Government have allocated specific amount of funds for this purpose for 1997-98; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The production of Oilseeds in the country has increased significantly from 10.83 million tonnes in 1985-86 to 22.43 million tonnes in 1995-96 which is still not keeping pace with the increasing demand of edible oil due to rapid increase in population and high standard of living. The estimated production of edible oil during the year 1996-97 is 67 lakh M.T. as against the requirement of 75.32 lakh M.T. having a shortfall of 8.32 lakh M.T.

(c) As a short term measure the import of edible oil has been placed on OGL with a reduced duty of 20%.

(d) In order to achieve self sufficiency in Oilseeds Production, Govt. of India has launched a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programmes (OPP) in 22 major oilseeds growing States covering 337 selected districts. Under this programme financial assistance is provided on various critical inputs like production and distribution of seed, distribution of seed minikits, rhizobium culture, gypsum/pyrite, improved farm implements, p.p. equipments, sprinkler sets etc. In addition, frontline and general demonstrations are organised on farmer's field to transfer the production technology.

(e) and (f) Budget proposals for 1997-98 are still to be finally passed by Parliament. Based upon these proposals the tentative allocation of funds as Central share to various States during 1997-98 for implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is enclosed as statement.